

## BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 6.07.00  
SUBJECT: PEPPERBALL PROJECTILES  
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 15, 2003  
REVIEW: AUGUST 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013

1. PURPOSE. PepperBall projectiles are another alternative in the use of force continuum that may be used in circumstances to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation with a reduced potential for death or serious physical injury to all persons involved. PepperBall projectiles are described as “nonlethal.”
2. POLICY. This policy provides personnel, trained in using PepperBall projectiles, with direction as to use, deployment, storage, and suspect care. Personnel trained in the use of PepperBall projectiles are authorized to employ PepperBall projectiles in accordance with the provisions of this policy and the department’s overall policy on use of force.
3. DEFINITION. PepperBall projectiles are “marble size” plastic “frangible” spheres that weigh 2 grams and are filled with 1½ grams of powdered Oleoresin Capsicum (cayenne pepper), water, dye marking or inert powder. The projectiles, when delivered by an air powered launching device, are designed to fracture into multiple pieces (referred to as being “frangible”) on impact with a subject or surface and release the contents. The plastic projectiles also deliver a low degree of kinetic energy.
4. USE. PepperBall projectiles are department issued items, and are to be used only by trained department personnel.
  - A. The use of PepperBall projectiles are considered to be a force level of “physical to serious physical control” when deployed to areas of the suspect’s body that are considered unlikely to cause death or serious physical injury.
  - B. Members may use PepperBall projectiles at the same level of force where other impact weapons are justified, as well as for area saturation or in situations where OC restraints are appropriate for use on aggressive individuals, or animals.

- C. The use of PepperBall projectiles or Less Lethal Munitions (General Order 06.05.00) are not mandatory when the developing situation, per the force continuum, does not allow the necessary circumstances or time for the department member(s) to transition to the deployment of nonlethal or less lethal munitions.
- D. Should the PepperBall projectiles prove ineffective in de-escalating the situation, and the incident develops into deadly force, the Use of Deadly Physical Force General Order (6.02.00) will supercede this General Order.

5. DEPLOYMENT.

- A. PepperBall projectiles will only be fired from the designated .68 caliber High Pressure Air (HPA) launching delivery system, which resembles a “paint ball gun.” No other ammunition or paint balls will be carried or used in this system. PepperBall, water, dye marking or inert powder projectiles may be intermixed.
- B. Manufacturer’s “glass shattering” round may be deployed in particular situations to break glass.
- C. The number of PepperBall projectiles shall be restricted to that amount the department member reasonably believes necessary to de-escalate the situation. Where possible, department members should issue a verbal warning regarding their intent to deploy PepperBall projectiles.
- D. Department members who deploy PepperBall projectiles at a suspect (hit or miss), or deploy the projectiles for area saturation shall make verbal notification to the duty supervisor as soon as possible. The department member will submit a Beaverton Police Department Physical Control Report and a written narrative detailing the circumstances of its use prior to the end of shift. If the department member has been injured, the written report shall be completed as soon as practical. A supervisor will conduct a review of the incident; the supervisor will provide a copy of the incident report to the sector captain.

6. STORAGE. PepperBall projectiles will be carried in designated carrying cases, speed pods, or launcher hoppers. When taken into the field, the launchers will be stored in the soft or hard case.

7. SUSPECT CARE. Department members shall arrange first aid for suspects in custody who have been struck with PepperBall projectiles to reduce the effects of the pepper powder. Trained medical personnel will evaluate the suspect(s) due to the “kinetic energy” impact to the body by the projectiles. These areas are to be photographed.

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Chief of Police

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Date